

Sourville's house Oct. 20th. 1850.

Dear father &amp; mother,

I am afraid to write again to trouble a  
 little of your dear mail box - I know you are both busy & have plenty to  
 occupy all your time & I trust I am not always of a trusting disposition,  
 & cannot be quite content with thinking that you love & remember me  
 without seeing sometimes your written words - But I should be very un-  
 grateful to complain, for I have received most kind & faithful letters from  
 home, though Nancy & Eliza Colman are the only one out of my own im-  
 mediate family who have written to me - John I count as one of you -

To continue the journal, which was dropped just after Mrs. Bainford's  
 accident - it was a threatening day but still Mrs. Rowland & I ventured  
 on a walk to the village. I & wife indeed just a short time, but were hon-  
 ored by the shopman with a private view of the "fashion's" up stairs, such as  
 caps & bonnets, neck-tissues & lace! But as they did not happen to be what  
 we wanted, & we could not find what we did, we were obliged to satisfy him  
 with exclamations on their brilliancy - but it was quite funny. Every shop  
 is the great shop for some article round, & the farmers' wives & daughters come  
 here to shop - Sunday was rather a blue day with West. gale - In the evening,  
 in some chimney or another, she outslung her foot on the bed curtains & giving  
 a sudden spring, down came the whole apparatus! The noise & confusion such  
 a great piece of mischief is rather a damp to one's spirits! I had a heavy  
 cold & started for it, & must confess I felt anything but lively - In the morn-  
 ing came our newspapers for some weeks back. Being sent to London originally,  
 & then forwarded through the post, they were charged as letters, & are found  
 it rather an expensive mode of conveyance, & a luxury which it were better  
 to postpone. It is quite provoking that you may send a book, in a cover with  
 the ends open, through the post for 6d. & we had to pay 16d. on 4 papers!  
 They would not let me go to church, as they said it was cold sitting there,  
 but in the afternoon we all had a long walk - I am quite certain how  
 there are paths through woods, across fields, & in every direction, & hills placed for  
 the accommodation of foot passengers - No one seems to walk in the road if they  
 can avoid it, whereas with us <sup>the road</sup> is the general path way. Then you come on  
 a little cottage quite away in a lane by itself, with scarcely a horse path leading  
 to it, - surrounded in trees & surrounded by shrubs, while with an almost every  
 house is quite on the road - And often only the back of the cottage is on the  
 road & you must go round to the other side to find the door -

Tuesday we had quite a little thunder in the evening, and rain  
to wash the... near at... And Mrs. Richardson announced  
to me the sad fact that from the 1st of November on to some time  
in January the sun set before 4 o'clock! And the shortest days it now will see  
until after 5 - I think it that in winter! They say that when you are  
flashed by light candles at Glastock - I then dined with us - He  
is the vicar at Westchurch, & has another little living to help out his salary -  
so that at almost all the churches round here there have service, but once  
a day. Tuesday we had a nice walk again the leaves in most  
were wet & we came, but they are not so dull looking as I expected -  
the sun the brilliant hues of our woods, but these colours are so rich  
it's hard to have it so like these never, after colours best of scandalize  
me by being so English about everything - I advise you to stay in England  
if you can, though there are things one admires very much, & many ways  
in which other countries surpass us, for nothing is quite perfect, & much  
wider here. And I must compare it to the... and we  
do as we can, & be content the drawing compasses in your hand, the... state,  
we make Americans foolishly do, which is both in bad taste, & unwise, nor  
neither need they be always running home down & admiring of superfluently,  
as do others, everything foreign - I like a quiet love & respect for those bonds,  
which is so deep that it can bear a man even in a little ridicule of follies,  
& yet loves & admires it so well that its honour is as one's own - And  
think in that way the English have the advantage, for they are superstitious  
of the superior excellence of England & everything English, that any  
other or indicate it with some of the... &... of the... &  
they remain quite unshaken - I was with some of the... I was  
the... &... in... I was... with... &...  
... variable &... - Wednesday we dined with Mrs  
... &... Mrs. Weston - It is something quite dif-  
ferent from the state of things, to see this class, like the... scattered  
all over the counties - in such remote places, & living & having things done  
in about the same style as in the cities. It is quite the routine, too of every  
day life & just extra for company - With us when people are quite used to the  
Sunday life is so simple - And then too the very marked... is always  
which each seems nicely to agree with. It is rather striking to meet an old  
man & have her drop you a little cheeking curtsey, & then all so young, & all of  
labouring class, & the men touch their hats - And it is very hard to make the  
English understand how the distinctions are lost with us, or how a few words  
in which do not every man is generally busy at work, all day, for the...  
of himself - It is very -

Thursday & Friday I did not... it... at... '...'  
&... it... it is... only... the...  
... always... from...  
... either, &... it was...  
I have... the...  
... but the last time they were...  
... in the... &...  
... the...  
... as the...  
... I have...  
... I have...  
... &...  
... Saturday I went...  
... it was...  
... Sunday morning I was...  
... at... about 2 1/2  
... the...  
... of...  
... Charles the 1st...  
... &...  
... in good time, so that...  
... &...  
... pillars with their...  
... & by a ruined gate...  
... the low...  
... the...  
... the...  
... yellow!...  
... on the...  
... situated...  
... the...  
... the...  
... it is almost...  
... deal at...  
... which...  
... & old...  
... from the...

... had ... and features, and with time ... and ways lost its voice, as that  
face was ... it was a solemn thing through to see these old stone  
monuments, some down through so many generations & through such changes &  
the scenes around them, & one can only then like were the old warriors their  
commemorate. There was also a fine view, the hollow for the body's saddle  
cut so as to show a path for the water into a small place for the head - and a  
portion of the old wall was left with a large head turned in as relief in it - there  
were old paving stones & the floor quite worn smooth, & in the wall a little  
remnant of old window & casement. He had restored, repaired & endowed  
the church in his name. It was a solemn & interesting thought  
to see it is think now many centuries ago had come on Sunday to some  
ship for a that place & the old walled village, & in later times the castle,  
to some years after that had it was then a recent feeling that was  
restored & restored, and there was now how many should be religious  
and long around these old English parish churches! As we walked  
we viewed the beautiful situation, we could not but since the  
old walls had more pleasant view & both sides were such a sweet val-  
ley below, & on the top with stretching woods, so strongly sheltered by the  
hills of the land. As you walked again in the afternoon is the most  
and the most beautiful of views. You must tell what pleasure it is a  
view to be with a walk to Spain & the hills of the green hills of the  
valley to the castle & that is not to be forgotten. Yesterday morning I went out  
to the summit, we received at the top of the hills, say it that the road would  
take us to the summit of the hill as to Kilpeck - To begin the day looked rather  
threatening, but we arrived at the summit of the hills, the road is  
rather a little rough - Kilpeck is a small circular stone church, the  
roof is a very fine one, & a very good state of preservation. It is much  
larger & more ornate, it seems strange to find such a good specimen of  
early Norman architecture, but they account for it that it  
is close to the ruins of Kilpeck castle, & was probably built as a part of chapel  
in the castle - there is a fine window towards the castle, the columns carved.  
It is a double door, & good Norman heads round close under the  
arch in the window the roof. The inside is sadly out of repair, though the  
chancel has been restored, there is a little tower, the farther we descended  
the more the other towers, as they call it, (the tower is surrounded with a wall  
and is a fine specimen) the effect was quite original. The church is a fine one, these  
little churches are very well in better state, & all have been well preserved &  
washed inside & out. They have some very old tapestries of Kilpeck  
& part has been seen - there were fine old tapestries around the church - &



road is not that we did not go to the castle, but that we  
 were not able to get there. I wanted to have a horse to go back to Simbray,  
 but we were unable to get one. I saw a horse killed with us - I saw  
 a man with a sword in his hand, wearing a warm dress like in the  
 throat & with a sword all day, & then at night. He was in a short  
 sleeve & low neck, & at night a light shawl over his shoulders. This  
 shows a situation too. There is no sun in the morning, warm the first part of  
 the day, it only adds to the exposure. I find the climate exposed  
 night chills. Mr. Foster described Mr. Holton as a "fossil man"  
 meaning one who brought all the feelings, opinions & conditions of the  
 past two or three hundred years to the present time, that is  
 thinks amongst us now as it was, & changes only in a few general  
 parts. However though he is an old man, he is quite young & still so  
 pleasant & agreeable, but has a theory & facts for everything, whether  
 of which, facts or theory is it worth while to dispute, because it is  
 only waste of time. Heron says - His mind is not in its manner,  
 & has many handsome things in her face. Fine eyes, fine hair, and  
 complexion so - but there always seems a sort of hardness in the  
 English face - the parts are not well proportioned, & well matched -  
 like their views, often handsome in each article, but each want of  
 taste in the combination. Even Mrs. Kenner who generally reads  
 very handsomely, sometimes puts such strange colours together.  
 She had a very pleasant evening -

Wednesday

The mail today brought me a letter from you, with a line from  
 Patrick - he says he has some particulars about Saml. Pether. Dear Pether -  
 father! How much I think of you! I am glad to hear that little  
 Charles is well again - many thanks Patrick for the little note. How  
 I enjoy the little fellow's speech! - and I would give a good deal to  
 let you see them. He says, father, you are in town - I sometimes try  
 to picture you all - But the very strange & being without the Wednesday  
 meeting seems to make such a difference that I can hardly tell  
 when & how to fancy you together. If you have a regular day of meeting,  
 pray let me know - I say all the satirical pieces about, being said, etc.  
 which do sound ridiculous across the water, as to Edmund's shoulder - he  
 had some one to bear in any account. But though I can well imagine  
 her supposition, I wish people would manifest their solid respects.  
 I am very glad you heard his speech - I am afraid it is more than she  
 or any other name either for the sleep reason does not seem in a good  
 and health.

the details are so numerous that - do not know them - can say so  
They say the old house (which is, in Italy) are very poor but they  
may be some in Paris  
Yesterday we dined at Mrs. Weston's. Her mother, being well arrayed,  
in a blue dress, sat there at 8. The road there is none of the best, leading  
between two high banks, very narrow, & there is a stream to ford, in  
there is no bridge - It is the place where I told you we walked once  
& it is full of old-fashioned furniture - It is a queer house, having been  
originally a little of the kind of the ancient cathedral, & attached  
to the little church next. The room are quite small & steep up &  
steep down - It is from one to the other - I then saw a very fine wood  
& Dr. Weston cross there. The wood is a sociable, pleasant,  
like a room in manners & looks but one in mind of a good cousin,  
Miss Seabrook, from whom I saw there was not so much flourish  
but a lady in spectacles, dressed in a remarkably fine pink  
satin frock, with bracelets of gold bracelets & chains, and a pretty hand  
& a very neck, & talked quite blue, unrepentant & uncheered, turning  
upon her with sudden bursts, & waving hand & throwing words her  
head most strikingly! There what a cracked description! She was  
pleasant though, though I got tired of sitting by her. Miss, a sister of  
Mrs. S., was quite in contrast, most rarely & simply dressed, & very  
pleasant in her manners went. Mrs. Weston's face proved upon me,  
she has a beautiful hand and arm - We undressed in the hall, an outer  
ward sitting, I think, & were ushered into the little sitting room - Where  
the company (I never enumerated, Mrs. Weston's little girl a year old, & then  
I saw an old woman, Mrs. Weston's mother, & the child was dressed in  
a white dress, with broad black sash, & one sleeve tied up with black ribbon -  
A little "emerald" ring, being one she had to the child, she took it to herself,  
& made love to her most impudently. There are some fine chairs in this  
room, antique in shape, & painted, some of pattern, with various colored  
woods - You may be sure they were all real, for Mrs. W. is a real connoisseur  
in such articles, but neither does he like to have them repaired, so that there  
is often a strange mixture, the elegant chairs with such chairs as old paper  
work & the same, has looked queerly with old carvings & quaint tattle.  
The walls were unadorned quite up with dark oak panels, & so was the  
dining room - Mrs. Weston's hand on the door - The dining room  
would be very fine were it a little larger, but it is for quite a rich  
& handsome carved piece of very fine fair place, & old audacious & a

very good fire - The carved tables against the wall, each chair was  
quite a treasure! with backed & carved sides, & the iron chain  
was quite picture - The dining table was of massive, beautifully polished  
oak - The curtains were yellow, & the custom here is to draw the curtains  
& draw the curtains quite across the windows, which was a very com-  
fortable look, & the yellow curtains in this room quite off & behind  
the dark oak. The law on the table was quite antique, long narrow  
slens, & fine little buttons, & the silver was in an old pattern. There  
was a silver brought silver had silver cups - Perforated in a heat  
silver service - Then coffee was handed round in silver ladies after  
we had retired, I was enchanted with the supper, it was like  
the antique silver which served - I did not sleep well & even then  
I got quiet, and when the noise is given up with the music, I had  
no objection, Mrs. Weston liked it. After a chat, & a little reading we  
were safe home to 11.

Today we go to Blackbrook, Mrs. Crawford's place, to this  
I saw the night, & I do not think we shall be home in time  
for me to visit my mother tomorrow. She has been  
threatening, seem to promise a little brighter, but it is almost dark  
now in 5 o'clock. Mrs. Bentham & Mr. Bentham, "miles" Mrs. B.  
& the maid in the afternoon to see when we get there  
& dear father & mother, I must say good bye, we need not  
say how much we shall, I never could say good bye.

Thursday Morning Oct. 31st  
I am back in time, near father & mother, to give a short ac-  
count of our visit to Blackbrook. We had a pleasant ride & got there  
about dusk - Lady Cornwall & Miss Cornelia Cornwall arrived just before  
us, & Mr. better Cornwall & Miss Cornwall came just as we had gone up  
stairs to dress - And when we came down we found a Mr. Stanhope, a  
young clergyman, also there. Mr. Crawford appeared with his arm in a sling,  
he is a tall, good looking man with grey hair, & a very decided Scotch  
accent, showing plainly his origin - Mrs. Crawford must have been very pretty,  
& is still handsome, though very stout - Mrs. Crawford has an intelligent face,  
& is very agreeable, with a good deal of wit & sense - Miss Eleanor Crawford, the

Behaviour she is to be made - did I say, said back, & did I mean, do that we see take up first, I suppose, & how  
 shall make some as meritorious - I thought it in terms that we should get some near  
 the end of the subject, & in person

younger daughter, about 10 is the prettiest person I have seen in England.  
 She is quite plump, with a lovely neck & shoulders, & dark hair & eyes & a  
 sweet childlike face. There was also a son whom we saw, quite a youth &  
 just going into the army - ~~the~~ Lady Cornwall is very deaf & I did not try to  
 speak to her - The Miss Cornwalls are not handsome, but good looking, with  
 scabby necks & arms. The young Sir below is nothing remarkable in appear-  
 ance - Mr. Tankhope is very pleasant & agreeable - I first, dimmed my eyes  
 as to the rules of precedence here, when I saw the young Baronet stand  
 in Mrs. Crauford's, I had quite forgotten about it before - My lot fell to young  
 Walter Crauford - The dinner service was real India China & very  
 handsome - I have been generally surpris'd that their dinner & break-  
 fast sets were so ordinary, the tea & dessert are generally French - The plate  
 was very handsome also - The coffee & tea services were very handsome -  
 Also ~~the~~ the cups were a lovely blue - But the furniture I do not  
 think is generally as handsome as with us - there are more mirrors, some  
 very handsome in some ordering and they do not have everything to match,  
 as I fancy, even it is often - The carpets remain though a good deal worn  
 & faded - The furniture is not recovered even should it be faded, & they  
 cover very much with paper - But there were beautiful India India  
 cabinets, tables, &c. at Mrs. Barlow's, the curtains were of very handsome  
 rose damask, &c. - I think this place gives more an air of comfort, & as if  
 things were used - And they do not seem to be burned aside, because they go  
 out of fashion. The first part of the evening was passed in talking & in talk-  
 ing very much & I could not but notice what good English, & without the exag-  
 geration so common with us the young ladies spoke - and so much command  
 of words too - and yet I should not think them wonderfully well educated  
 or well informed - Miss Crauford though, is very intelligent - I think though,  
 that the style of conversation is more forcible than with us, much reply  
 cannot remark seems to be the thing, & to be what attracts the gentlemen,  
 you do not hear so much of long conversation - Ergo, I shall never succeed  
 in English society, for smartness is not our forte - This morning we  
 went after breakfast in our Equipage to Mrs. Barlow's little garden - The ladies here  
 do a great deal of garden-work themselves - Another advantage of their  
 Camps Machine, for they can work our down or such better - when we went  
 to the green-house, & then into the stable & see her poor "lady-bird" -  
 Then returning to the house, <sup>going, I should say</sup> the gentlemen set  
 off to walk back, & we, <sup>adieu,</sup> <sup>arrived</sup> arrived about an hour or more ago -  
 Mrs. Bentham, found a letter from her brother announcing his arrival  
 by the last steamer with a Canadian bride - seems it has been a long  
 affair, & that she is much younger than in Hartford Express - They went at  
 once to his place, which is in Wales, & Mrs. B. hopes they may soon come to make a visit